

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, AUGUST 21, 2014**

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:02 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on August 21, 2014.

**Board Members Present:** Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Heather Palmer and Beth Suchsland.

**Board Members Absent:** Christina Frangiosa and Alan Tabachnick.

**Also Attending:** Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Trevor Jackson, Business Administrator/Board Treasurer; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Dr. Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Mike Morse, Gary Johnson, Mary Thiess and Brendan Wills.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting.

**Recognition/Awards:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Moore asked Board members to consider the minutes of the general meeting of July 17 and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee meeting of August 7. See enclosures #1 and #2.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**Financial Reports:** Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the financial reports on the list for approval. They include the Budget Transfers, the General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund, the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report, the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Report, the Trust Fund Report, the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending July 31. See enclosures #3 through #13.

Mrs. Palmer moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** None.

**Staff report:** Dr. McKeaney and Mrs. Berk provided an overview of summer programs. Dr. McKeaney touched on the Summer Literacy Blast for students in grades K-5. The program brought stories to life with visits from the Whitmarsh Fire Department, Whitmarsh Police Department, the William Jeanes Library and the SPCA. She also mentioned: the Girls in Technology program for girls entering fifth through eighth grades, three music programs including a songfest, stringfest and instrumental lessons, and an online credit recovery program at the high school. Dr. McKeaney also stated that a camp was held at Conshohocken Elementary School for the first time. The camp focused on math, reading, social skills and fitness. Mrs. Berk commented on the Extended School Year program for students whose IEP recommends schooling beyond the regular school year. She stated that 53 students took part in the five-week program, including 30 in grades K-5. Mrs. Berk stated that all students received positive benefits from the program.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer led Board members through her report which included the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List, an Enrollment Report and a list of instructors for the Fall Adult Evening School. See enclosures #14 through #17. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes one retirement, nine resignations, eight leaves of absence, 14 changes of assignment, six appointments and a list of substitute teachers, instructional aides and support staff. She noted that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes appointments for fall sports and annual clubs. The Enrollment Report reflects a total student population of 4,654 with average class sizes from 18-24. The Adult School list shows 30 teachers offering a total of 45 classes. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that all of the items were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** None.

**New Business:** Mrs. Oxberry asked Board members to act on two transportation contracts in one motion. The first is with St. Joseph's Preparatory School for \$8.15 per student per day. See enclosure #18. The second is with a parent at the rate of 56 cents per mile or the established IRS rate for each day the parent transports the pupil. See enclosure #19. Responding to a question from Mrs. Oxberry, Mr. Jackson stated that District contracts with individual parents provide a cost savings as opposed to assigning a bus and driver to one student.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the contracts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brady sought Board action on a request to approve a list of vendors resulting from a collective bidding process for groceries, milk, juices, ice cream and paper products for the Food Services Department. See enclosure #20.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to approve the recommended vendors. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider a special education services contract with Melmark for tuition of \$498.92 per day for the 2014-15 school year. See enclosure #21. Responding to a question from Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Berk explained that Melmark is an approved private school for students with severe disabilities and specialized needs.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Palmer asked the Board to act on two Plymouth Whitmarsh High School student trip requests in one motion. The first is for the Marching Colonials to attend the Bands of America Grand Nationals Marching Band Championships in Indianapolis, Ind., from November 13-16. See enclosure #22. The second is for Spanish exchange students to visit New York City from September 13-14 and Washington, DC on September 18. See enclosure #23.

Mrs. Palmer moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Committee Reports:** MCIU: Mrs. Finegold stated that there was no meeting in July.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky reported that enrollment is up and the school is moving ahead with plans to add a landscaping program in the fall.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: No Report.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Palmer reminded everyone to sign up for the Colonial Challenge 5K and Colonial Community Day on September 13. She reported that summer mailings from schools will go out on August 22.

Safety and Wellness: No Report.

Legislative: No Report.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary